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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/622,621	07/18/2003	Jan Weber	S63.2-10856-US01	2650	
490	7590	08/06/2010			
VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A. SUITE 400, 6640 SHADY OAK ROAD EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55344				KOHARSKI, CHRISTOPHER	
ART UNIT		EXAMINER		PAPER NUMBER	
3763					
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE			
08/06/2010		PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/622,621	Applicant(s) WEBER ET AL.
	Examiner CHRISTOPHER D. KOHARSKI	Art Unit 3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08/06/2009.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 27,28,30-38 and 63-70 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 32-38 and 68-70 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 27,28,30,31 and 63-68 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/19/2010

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/04/2010 has been entered.

Acknowledgements

The Examiner acknowledges the reply filed 03/04/2010 in which claim 32 was amended. Currently claims 27-28, 30-38, and 63-70 are pending for examination in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) that was submitted on 05/09/2010 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102e

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 65 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Steadham et al. (USPN7,331,933). Steadham et al. discloses a balloon with compression member.

Regarding claim 65, Steadham et al. further discloses a balloon comprising a balloon body (30) having a proximal end (near 46) and a distal end (near 34), and the balloon (30) comprising circumferential elastic bands (40, 42) on the proximal end or distal end of the balloon body, the elastic bands in their rest configuration have a smaller diameter than the balloon body in its at rest configuration (col 4, ln 40-60, Figure 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 27-28 and 63-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (USPN6,007,517) in view of Yang et al. (US2001/0003796).

Regarding claims 27-28 and 63-64, Anderson discloses a medical balloon (3, Figures 1A-1B) having a longitudinal axis (along tube 2) and proximal (near 4) and distal ends (near 3 the balloon (5) connecting to a coaxial shaft (4) at the proximal end thereof and connecting to the same (4) or a different coaxial shaft at the distal end thereof, and having a central body wall portion between each end spaced apart from the balloon ends and connected thereto by means of tapering proximal (ends of balloon 3) and distal wall (ends of balloon 3) portions, respectively, wherein the balloon (3) further comprises a lumen (7) offset from the longitudinal axis (along axis of tub 2) extending through the tapering proximal and distal wall portions, the lumen spaced apart from the coaxial shaft at the proximal end and the coaxial shaft at the distal end (Figures 1A-3A).

Anderson meets the claim limitations as described above except for the specific balloon materials.

However, Yang et al. teaches a hydrophilic lubricity coating.

Regarding claims 27-28 and 63-64, Yang et al. teaches a balloon catheter (10, Figure 2) wherein the balloon formed of radiation cured polymerized composition ([0053]).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to incorporate the hydrogel exterior coating of Yang et al. to the system of Anderson in order to increase balloon insertion and tracking within the patient by adding a lubricious exterior coating.

The references are analogous in the art and with the instant invention; therefore, a combination is proper. Therefore, one skilled in the art would have combined the teachings in the references in light of the disclosure of Yang et al. ([0001-0010]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 66-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steadham et al. (USPN7,331,933) in view of Crocker et al. (USPN6,120,523). Steadham meets the claim limitations as described above except for the bands being located on in the interior of the balloon and the balloon comprising a radiation cured polymer composition.

However, Crocker et al. teaches a focalized intraluminal balloon.

Regarding claims 66-68, Crocker et al. teaches a polymeric (cross-linked polyethylene, col 7, ln 35-55) balloon and is a multi-layer polymeric film (39, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44) wherein a first (36, 48) and second layers are in adherent contact over a coplanar coextensive region defining an at rest and open configuration resulting in a change of surface area (Figures 2-3), with a layer comprising an elastomeric band (40, 44) that is stretched during the configuration change.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to change the placement of the bands and the balloon materials of Steadham in order to gain additional balloon inflation control properties. The references are analogous in the art and with the instant invention; therefore, a combination is proper. Therefore, one skilled in the art would have combined the teachings in the references in light of the disclosure of Crocker et al. (cols 1-2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (USPN6,007,517) in view of Yang et al. (US2001/0003796).

Anderson as modified by Yang et al. meets the claim limitations as described above except for the device being used in with a stent delivery catheter or with a rapid exchange catheter.

Regarding claims 30-31, it would have been obvious to use the medical balloon device as disclosed by Boussignac et al. in combination with a stent delivery catheter or rapid exchange catheter since it well known in the medical arts to use stents and exchange catheter to treat body arteries and maintain vessel patency after procedures.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 32-38 and 69-70 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 03/04/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's Representative asserts that the combination of Anderson and Yang et al. does not disclose a medical balloon formed of a radiation cured polymerizable composition, and that the Steadham reference does not discloses an elastic band having a smaller diameter than a balloon body in its at rest position.

The Examiner has fully considered applicant's arguments but they are not persuasive. It is examiners position that given a careful reading, the claims do not distinguish over the prior art of record.

Regarding the combination of Anderson in view of Yang et al., Yang et al. reference discloses a balloon element with an external coating that is formed of a radiation cured material ([0053]). The Examiner asserts that this is part of the balloon and therefore a portion of the balloon is formed of a radiation cured materials and therefore meets the claimed limitation.

Regarding the Steadham reference, the elastic bands (col 2, ln 55-65) have a diameter that is smaller than the balloon in their rest configuration (see Figure 2), i.e. the balloon is not inflated and the bands are shown at rest to have a smaller region and to compress the balloon (44) to a smaller diameter when the bands are placed.

The prior art of record teaches all elements as claimed and these elements satisfy all structural, functional, operational, and spatial limitations currently in the claims. Therefore the standing rejections are proper and maintained.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher D. Koharski whose telephone number is 571-272-7230. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30am to 2:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Date: 07/16/2010

/Christopher D Koharski/
Examiner, Art Unit 3763